(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated under this scheme to Chhattisgarh, Mahdhya Pradesh and Orissa during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Funds are not allocated State-wise. Instead, funds are released to the Composite Regional Centres and District Rehabilitation Centres in the States.

Rise in atrocities on SC/ST

3679. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land related atrocities on SCs/STs have been increasing in the country, as per the report of the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is addressing these issues within the framework of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The data specifically in regard to land related offences of atrocities is not maintained by this Ministry. However, the cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) **Act,** 1989 was 31,387 cases in the year 2005 and 32,407 in the year 2006.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been addressing the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. The suggested measures include sensitization of investigating officers, timely registration of First Information Report as well as filing of charge sheets in the courts, organising mass awareness generation programmes, effective redressal of land disputes and evolving a special package for development of identified atrocity prone areas. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, due central assistance is also provided to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations mainly for strengthening of the enforcement and judicial machinery, incentive for inter caste marriages, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

Implementation of tribal land rights

†3680. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of law regarding the land rights of tribal people;

(b) the details of **the** plans of Government for its implementation region-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that hardships are being faced in its impelementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the State where such law has not been formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31 st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. State/UT Governments have been last addressed on 11-1-2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act and for initiating necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. In order to ensure speedy implementation of the Act, this Ministry has conveyed the major actionable points alongwith timelines to the State/UT Governments for initiating follow up action.

(c) and (d) As in all schemes, operational problems are sometimes being faced in the implementation of the Act but solutions are being found by the State administration.

(e) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Fund for tribals welfare in Orissa

3681. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to Orissa for tribal welfare, education and health care from 2004 to 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fund allocated could not be utilized; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) The details of funds allocated to the State of Orissa for tribal welfare, education and health care from 2004—07 are as under:

Year	*(Rs. in lakh)* Funds allocated
2004-05	10211.13
2005-06	9303.77
2006-07	11547.59

The State Governments/UT Administrations are expected to utilize funds released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs within twelve months from the date of sanction. During the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the Government of Orissa has reported utilization of around 96% of the funds released during the said period.